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The NERT News

N.E.R.T.

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The Captain's Corner

Lt. Andrew McGladrey

Someone once said that the only constant is change. That is true of TVFR's organization and the management of the NERT program from our perspective. Captain Pfeiffer has been transferred out of this division, and starting September 1, Captain Mark McGladrey (yes, there is a connection) will be Captain at Station 50. Margaret Dimmick and I have been serving as "point persons" in the interim. I know that Mark is looking forward to working with the NERT/RACES members as he returns to the Division.

We are making some management changes to improve how the District provides support to the NERTs. Among them are changes to how we manage refreshers and academies. You can call Station 54 at 657-1365 to register. This will both ensure that your registration is handled efficiently, and allow us to schedule instructors. Because many of our instructors must come "off the line" to teach, we incur a not insubstantial overtime cost for each class. To keep costs and wasted effort to a minimum, and to ensure that participants have a quality experience, we will establish, and enforce, class minimums (generally no fewer than 10 students), and cut-off times for registration. Should a class be cancelled due to lack of registrations, we will notify those who have already registered.

You can also expect more emphasis on the NERTs as the City's "eyes and ears" during a disaster. You all are "in the trenches," and have valuable information on resource needs, the scope of the disaster, and the general impact on your neighbors.

Finally, as many of you know, Oregon City will have a local option tax to fund firefighters at the new South End Fire Station on November's ballot. We encourage you to educate yourself on the issues related to this tax. For more information, call City Hall at 657-0891.

Andrew

Emergency Management Update

Margaret Dimmick

As some of you are aware, we were not successful in our first effort at filling the Emergency Management Program Manager position. As a result, we have re-advertised the position, but will wait until the outcome of the election and the determination on the levy, which will appear on the ballot before we interview candidates. As a result, we will probably not have a new Emergency Manager in place until December or January. In the interim, I will fill the position full time through September, and part time until they have selected a replacement. I look forward to working with you all this fall!

Margaret

ARES/RACES WAVELENGTHS

Kevin Hunt WA7VTD

The summer has been an exciting time for Oregon City ARES/RACES. While we have been fortunate to have experienced no major incidents requiring activation, the relative calm has allowed great progress to be made on a number of fronts.

Repeater to Augment Disaster Response; City Officials Lend Hand

In mid-July, RACES members Randy Bradbury KD7BRN, Steve Fedler KD7BTB, Gary Moak KD7ELU, Larry Flora KD7GVX, and this writer conducted 440 MHz propagation tests from various city operated water standpipes ("water towers"), to determine the best location for an additional repeater to support ARES/NERT activities. Standpipes offer good, secure, survivable locations . We were looking for the ability to communicate by handheld radio with the downtown Oregon City area, while still providing good communications coverage throughout the remainder of Oregon City and adjacent unincorporated areas. The 440 MHz band has the ability to penetrate building walls (helpful to NERT teams conducting damage surveys and providing medical aid), while still retaining reflective characteristics sufficient to "fill in" many shadow areas. The tests were a success, and the Boynton Standpipe was selected as the repeater location. The Oregon Region Relay Council has given the go ahead for deployment of a repeater with an output frequency of 443.850 MHz. Randy KD7BRN established an excellent working relationship with city Public Works Director Joe McKinney, who is very supportive of this effort to enhance the emergency communications capacity of the city via ham radio.

Three RACES members plan to purchase the repeater hardware, leaving the antenna and transmission line to be acquired. Such privately purchased equipment will later be donated by the purchasers to a nonprofit corporation (see below) dedicated to supporting the city ARES/RACES and NERT programs (see below). Total costs for the project are estimated at $3000. If you are looking for a worthwhile TAX DEDUCTABLE donation, please contact Kevin Hunt!

City Commissioner Dan Holladay has come to the assistance of this project, proposing various methods of accessing donated installation labor by professionally certified technicians to meet city requirements, as well as establishing contacts with manufacturers and distributors who may be willling to donate those portions of the project not funded initially by private purchases. We are very grateful for the support of Commissioner Holladay, who has opined that, in his view, the Oregon City ARES/RACES program is "the best in Oregon." Mayor John Williams has accredited the bona fides of the ARES/RACES group by communications with the various city departments involved, as has TVFR Oregon City Emergency Manager Margaret Dimmick. If all goes well, this great new resource for local emeregncy response should be on the air this winter.

Non-Profit Corporation to Support NERT and ARES/RACES

At a recent NERT/RACES Steering Committee meeting, the concept was discussed of forming a tax exempt, non-profit corporation to support the NERT and RACES programs of Oregon City. Formation of such an organization would allow the solicitation of donations of funds and equipment, ranging from helmets to vehicles to radios to training materials. The idea is not to abandon solicitation of local government funds, but rather to provide additional resources for the support of these programs by taking advantage of the willingness of numerous companies and foundations to make donations.

As of this writing, the proposed name of the organization is "Oregon City Associated Volunteers in Disasters-AVID." An initial Board of Directors consisting of Steve Fedler, President; Gary Moak, Vice President, Linda Orzen, Treasurer, Randy Bradbury,

Director; and Kevin Hunt, Executive Director, has agreed to shepherd the organization until the first annual elections of officers. A Treasurer and second Director are being recruited. If you are interested, please contact any current board member.

Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws should be adopted within sixty days, followed by filing of the Articles with the state corporation division. Thereafter, application will be made for an IRS determination letter of tax-exempt status under section 501©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, a process which takes about four months.

Ham Radio/RACES Chapter Added to NERT Training Manual

Emergency Manager Margaret Dimmick has completed editing and final drafting of a chapter about disaster communications for the NERT training manual, based on data provided by RACES members. The NERT/RACES Steering Committee approved the text, which will be included for the next NERT academy. The chapter also makes an excellent stand-alone primer for local government officials and NERT volunteers, about the inevitable collapses of communications during large-scale emergencies, and how amateur radio should be utilized to fill in gaps in emergency communications.

Amateur (HAM) Radio

The Lifeblood of Disaster Communications

When natural disaster or other calamity strikes, relief agencies and Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams implement plans to relieve suffering, deliver food, water and medical care, and protect the community. One of the first, and most serious problems encountered during an emergency, is a break down in communication systems. HAM radio operators are being used by emergency response organizations to provide much needed communication during an emergency

HAMS in Oregon City have united in the Oregon City unit of the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), in partnership with the Oregon City Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams (NERT) and the local Fire Department. In the event of severe storms, floods or other catastrophes, RACES activates its emergency plan and responds to provide communications to public agencies and NERT members. RACES members report to the City Emergency Operations Center on the status of various locations, casualties, and needed response. In order to ensure readiness, RACES members conduct drills to test their readiness on a regular basis.

It's also fun—Why Not Join?

Amateur radio is a service, but it's also a hobby. As a ham, you not only serve your community, but also enjoy hours of experimenting and communicating with other enthusiasts around the world. You can communicate by voice, Morse Code, digital computer interfaces, even television!

If you would like to join the fun and become a vital member of your community's emergency response system, please contact us. You will be notified when the next free ham radio license course is offered by the Oregon City RACES.

Contact: Kevin Hunt WA7VTD Oregon City RACES Radio Officer (503) 656-7578 WA7VTD@aol.com

David Kidd KA7OZO OC RACES Training Officer (503) 632-4056 ka7ozo@pacifier.com

Year 2000 Activities

MEETINGS

NERT/RACES Steering Committee Meetings

Dates- Sept. 26, December 19.
Time-6:30p.m.-8:30p.m. Station 54.
For more information, call 657-1365

TRAINING

NERT Academy

Dates-October 7, 14, 21, 28. Nov. 4, 11, 18.
Time-9a.m.-12 noon. Station 54, EOC.
To register, call 657-1365 no later than September 29.

NERT Refresher Training

Dates:
September 23,
Refresher for all NERT/RACES members. Topic-Search and Rescue. Station 54, EOC. 0800-1200. To register, call 657-1365 no later than September 20.

December 2,
Refresher for all NERT/RACES members. Topic-Medical Emergencies. Station 54, EOC. 0800-1200. To register, call 657-1365 no later than November 15.

Rodeo 2000 Receives Emergency Management Award

The Oregon Emergency Management Division honored the organizers and participants of the NERT/CERT Rodeo 2000 for its innovative and cooperative approach to community-based preparedness. Captain Dawson was among those recognized for his contribution to the Rodeo at the awards luncheon held August 22nd in Eugene. Congratulations to all who helped, and all who participated!

October Academy Approaches

Margaret Dimmick

Now that school is back in session and our lives have returned to "normal" from the hectic schedules we all had this summer, it is time to think about the October Academy. The curriculum has changed slightly to reflect the new Student Manual and its additional chapter on emergency communications, which will be taught by our ARES/RACES members. This will expand our academy from its usual 18 hours of instruction to 22.

As you know, our last two academies were cancelled due to lack of registrants. Let's not let this happen this time! If it has been a while since you attended the academy, maybe it is time to go through it again? Do you know someone who would be interested in the class-maybe someone you met as you conducted your neighborhood surveys during National Night Out?

Formal advertising is great, but the best advertisement is someone who has been through it and enjoyed the experience. We need you to help sell this program!

September 26 NERT/RACES Steering Committee Meeting Notice:

The quarterly NERT/RACES Steering Committee Meeting will be held from 6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m. in the meeting room at Station 54, 624 7th Street in Oregon City. We will be discussing next year's work plan, so please plan to attend!

Taking it one step at a time.

PREPAREDNESS CALENDAR

TVF&R Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue

Family Disaster Supplies and Preparedness Activities

- *This calendar is intended as a tool to help you prepare for disasters before they happen.*
- *After you purchase an item or complete an activity, check the box next to it.*

MONTH 1

Purchase:
- ☐Water - 3 gallons per person and pet
- ☐Hand-operated can opener and bottle opener
- ☐Instant drinks (coffee, tea, powdered soft drinks)
- ☐2 flashlights with batteries

Activities:
- ☐Make your family disaster preparedness plan*
- ☐Inventory disaster supplies already on hand, especially camping gear
- ☐If you fill your own water containers, mark them with the date filled
- ☐Date water/food containers if they are not dated
- ☐Conduct a home hazard hunt*

MONTH 2

Purchase:
- ☐Canned meat, stew, or pasta meal - 5 per person
- ☐Sanitary napkins
- ☐Videotape
- ☐Family-size first aid kit

Activities:
- ☐Change battery and test smoke detector (purchase and install a detector if you don't have one)
- ☐Videotape your home, including contents, for insurance purposes. Store the tape with friends or family who live out of town.

MONTH 3

Purchase:
- ☐Canned fruit - 3 cans per person
- ☐Any foods for special dietary needs (enough for 3 days)
- ☐2 rolls of toilet paper per person
- ☐Crescent wrench(es) (or utility shutoff tools)

Activities:
- ☐Conduct a home fire drill
- ☐Check with your child's day care or school to find out about their disaster plans
- ☐Locate gas meter and water shutoff points and attach/store wrench or shutoff tool near them
- ☐Establish an out-of-state contact to call in case of emergency

Your supplies may be stored together in one large container, such as a garbage can on wheels, or several small ones. Food items could be kept on a specific shelf in the pantry.

MONTH 4

Purchase:
- ☐Canned vegetables - 4 per person
- ☐Extra baby bottles, formula, and diapers, if needed
- ☐Extra pet supplies; food, collar, leash
- ☐Large storage container(s) for preparedness supplies

Activities:
- ☐Place a sturdy pair of shoes and a flashlight under your bed so that they will be handy during an emergency
- ☐Place a supply of prescription medicine(s) in storage container and date the medicine(s) if not already indicated on its label
- ☐Start putting supplies in storage container(s) and include blankets or sleeping bags for each family member

MONTH 5

Purchase:
- ☐Canned, ready-to-eat soup - 2 per person
- ☐Liquid dish soap
- ☐Plain liquid bleach
- ☐Portable am/fm radio (including batteries)
- ☐Anti-bacterial liquid hand soap
- ☐Disposable hand wipes

Activities:
- ☐Make photocopies of important papers and put in the storage container
- ☐Talk with neighbors to find out who may have skills or training that would be beneficial after a disaster (i.e., first aid, child care, amateur radio, tree removal, small engine repair, heavy equipment operations, wilderness survival, light rescue, carpentry)

Contact your local Emergency Management Office for more information on this activity

Examples of Food Items:

- *Select based on your family's preferences*
- *Pick low-salt, water-packed varieties when possible*

Canned Meat	*tuna, chicken, raviolis, chili, stew, Spam™, corned beef, etc.*
Vegetables	*green beans, corn, peas, beets, baked beans, carrots, etc.*
Fruit	*pears, applesauce, mandarin oranges, pineapple, etc.*

MONTH 6

Purchase:
- ☐Quick-energy snacks (granola bars, raisins, peanut butter)
- ☐6 rolls of paper towels
- ☐3 boxes of facial tissue
- ☐Sunscreen
- ☐Anti-diarrhea medicine
- ☐Latex gloves, 6 pairs, (to be put with the first aid kit)

Activities:
- ☐Check to see if your stored water has expired and needs to be replaced. (Replace every 6 months if you filled your own containers. Store-bought water will have an expiration date on the container.)
- ☐Put an extra pair of eyeglasses in the supply container
- ☐Store a roll of quarters with the emergency supplies and locate the pay phone nearest to your home
- ☐Find out about your workplace disaster plans

MONTH 7

Purchase:
- ☐Whistle
- ☐ABC fire extinguisher
- ☐1 large can of juice per person
- ☐Adult and children vitamins
- ☐A pair of pliers and/or vise grips

Activities:
- ☐Take a first aid/CPR class
- ☐Identify neighbors who might need help in an emergency, including those with limited mobility or health problems and children who might be alone
- ☐Show family members where and how to shut off the utilities

MONTH 8

Purchase:
- ☐Box of crackers or graham crackers
- ☐Dry cereal
- ☐"Child proof" latches or other fasteners for cabinet doors and drawers
- ☐1 box of large, heavy-duty garbage bags
- ☐ Camping or utility knife

Activities:
- ☐Secure shelves, cabinets, and drawers to prevent them from falling and/or opening during earthquakes
- ☐Meet with neighbors to inventory expensive equipment that could be shared in the event of an emergency, such as chain saws, chippers/shredders, utility trailers, snow blowers, and wheel drive vehicles

MONTH 9

Purchase:
- ☐Extra batteries for flashlights, radio, and hearing aids (if needed)
- ☐Heavy rope
- ☐Duct tape
- ☐Crowbar

Activities:
- ☐Make a small preparedness kit for your car. Include food, water, blanket, small first aid kit, a list of important phone numbers, and quarters for pay phones.
- ☐Secure water heater to wall studs (if not already done)

MONTH 10

Purchase:
- ☐Hammer and assorted nails
- ☐Screw drivers and assorted wood screws
- ☐Heavy duty plastic tarps or sheets of visquine
- ☐Extra toothbrush per person and toothpaste

Activities:
- ☐Make arrangements to have someone help your children if you're are at work when an emergency occurs
- ☐Conduct an earthquake drill at home
- ☐Replace prescription medicines as required by expiration dates

MONTH 11

Purchase:
- ☐Package of paper plates
- ☐Package of napkins
- ☐Package of eating utensils
- ☐Package of paper cups
- ☐Masking tape
- ☐Kitchen-size garbage bags (1 box)

Activities:
- ☐Make arrangements to have someone to take care of your pets if your are at work when an emergency occurs
- ☐Exchange work, home, and emergency contact phone numbers with neighbors for use during an emergency
- ☐Start a Neighborhood Watch Program if none exists

MONTH 12

Purchase:
- ☐Heavy work gloves
- ☐Box of disposable dust masks
- ☐Safety goggles
- ☐Antiseptic
- ☐Sewing kit

Activities:
- ☐Check to see if your stored water has expired and needs to be replaced. (Replace every 6 months if you filled your own containers. Store-bought water will have an expiration date on the container.)
- ☐Check the dates on stored food and replace as needed

Oregon City NERT Staging Areas and Contacts

Neighborhood Association	Staging Area	Contact	Phone Number
Barclay Hills	Barclay Hills Park	Matthew Mattsson	655-6008
Gaffney Lane	Gaffney Lane School	Derrick Beneville	557-7535
Hillendale	Hillendale Park	Julie Hollister	656-3950
Tower Vista	Chapin Park	Dave Adelhardt	657-7708
South End	McLoughlin School	Ivan Brooks	650-9395

Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue
624 7th Street
Oregon City, OR 97045

N.E.R.T.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED